

10 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

FROM:

25X1

SUBJECT: Soviet Foreign Policy Agenda for 1983-84

1. The thrust of the Soviet Union's foreign policy agenda during the coming year or two is now becoming apparent. It looks as though Andropov and Company will focus on four key efforts:

-- To undercut the current US arms buildup, and thus to neutralize the threat of an arms race the Soviets can ill afford.

-- To drive a wedge between the US and its allies, specifically to block deployment of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe in 1983 and to sustain trade with the West at the highest practical level.

-- To improve relations with China, or to convey to the West and Third World the impression of improved Sino-Soviet relations.

-- To continue support of anti-US insurgencies in Central America and the Caribbean--either directly or through proxies such as Cuba--by means including weapons, personnel, money and propaganda.

2. While in recent weeks the intelligence community has issued reports on all these subjects, to my knowledge we haven't yet offered policymakers a comprehensive outline and analysis of the overall Soviet agenda.

3. The piece I have in mind would include answers to these questions:

-- What tactics are the Soviets likely to use to pursue each item on their agenda?

-- What will be the key events during the coming year, such as the upcoming West German elections, deployment of the first new missile (probably in the UK), resumption of the Sino-Soviet talks, etc. When will these events take place? For each event, what will be the Soviet objective.

-- Within the context of each agenda item and each event, how successful do we estimate that the Soviets will be?

-- How seriously would US security interests be affected?

4. A SNIE along these lines would enable policymakers to focus on the key issues, and on the timing of specific actions likely to occur. It would facilitate production of a US program, designed to foil the Soviet agenda/action plan.

5. Obviously, we might want to modify or expand the agenda I've outlined above in Point One.

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